



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Deseret Chemical Depot

Tooele: *Creating a Safer Tomorrow*



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Did you know that the Tooele region, with its majestic mountains and broad expansive valleys, is playing a vital role in national and global affairs? In Tooele, the U.S. Army is making chemical weapons history at its Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). This facility is destroying a large chemical weapons stockpile that has been stored in the area for many years.

What are chemical weapons?

The weapons are sturdy containers of various types and sizes holding toxic chemical agents. Contrary to popular belief, chemical agents are not gases. Chemical agents are liquid in original form; however, they deteriorate into a thick, sludge-like substance over long periods of time.

Where are the weapons located?

Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) has stored chemical weapons since 1942. Its mission is to ensure that the storage of the stockpile remains safe for the community, workers and the environment. A trained, professional workforce oversees depot operations and storage and is dedicated to safely maintaining the stockpile until it is destroyed.

What is the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility?

The TOCDF is a state-of-the-art incineration facility designed to safely and efficiently dispose of the chemical weapons stored at the DCD.

How are the weapons destroyed?

The Tooele facility incinerates the weapons using robotic equipment that disassembles the weapons and treats each component in a separate incinerator. Specifically, the chemical agent is drained from the weapon and burned in a liquid incinerator, while the weapon's explosive components are destroyed in a special deactivation furnace. You can learn more about incineration in the fact sheet entitled "Incineration: A Safe, Proven Disposal Process."

Who is destroying the weapons?

The Army's Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely disposing of the stockpile. In 1989, the Army awarded URS Corporation (formerly EG&G Defense Materials, Inc.) a contract to build, test, operate and close Tooele's facility. Many other organizations work in partnership with the Army to successfully complete this mission including the Utah Department of



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Environmental Quality, the state of Utah and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Some of your family members, friends or neighbors probably work on this important project.

How long will it take to destroy the weapons?

Disposal operations began in Tooele in 1996. Currently, it is estimated that disposal operations will be completed in time to meet the April 2012 treaty deadline.

How will the environment be protected?

The permits for the facility, which the state's Department of Environmental Quality approved, were written based on studies conducted locally. This ensures that operations at the disposal facility are protective of local citizens and the Tooele area environment.

What will happen to the facility once the weapons are gone?

The disposal of the chemical weapons is the depot's final mission. Once the disposal of chemical weapons is complete, the facility will be decontaminated and decommissioned.

What is the Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission?

The Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) includes members appointed by the governor of Utah. The CAC provides a vital link between the community and the Army by providing a forum for exchanging information about chemical weapons disposal operations at the DCD. CAC members represent the community's interests and come from diverse backgrounds such as health care, construction, hazardous waste management and engineering. The Utah CAC meets with representatives of the U.S. Army, the state of Utah and its citizens publicly to discuss operations at DCD, its impact on Utah and the community and the interests of the public. The commission welcomes your input and participation.

How can I learn more?

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office is a convenient "one-stop" source of information about the chemical disposal program. The office staff frequently can be seen out in the community giving presentations, holding public meetings, distributing informational materials and attending community functions.